

Berlin Ct Jan<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1831.

Br Phelps.

As I have now a small remnant of a broken eye: <sup>me</sup> before, & as it is some time since I last addressed you, I now devote a few moments to communion with you. The Lord has recently called me thro' scenes of affliction. A week ago this day I received & sad intelligence of & death of my Mother. For & last week of her life she failed very rapidly, being almost worn out with her long existing nervous affections. I was suddenly called home to attend & funeral ceremonies. The loss & interment of those we love, I find by experience more trying to patience & submission than I had previously supposed. But our heavenly Father reigns; & let & earth rejoice. (May my affliction bring forth in me & <sup>in</sup> all my kindred & peaceable fruits of righteousness).

I received your last letter a few weeks since; am much obliged to you for your caution about & preservation of health; tho' my danger fr. excessive action, I think not immanent at present. As for Ethol, Saunders was & only man I got fr. N. Haven to take my place. The revival



has continued to advance since I left them. I gave this case a negative answer. For some reason, I know not what, Saunders is not about to tarry with them. They have written to me for a candidate fr. N. H. Now I know not of a suitable man who can be had. I have preached in this place 7 Sab. & I am to remain here one Sab. longer. The ch. meets this week & Socy next Monday to see about giving me a call. I understand & pres. say there will be but one voice about it. The Socy here is not very large. The congregation consists of 4 or 5 hundred in summer, & less in winter. The village in summer is one of the most delightful in the State. The Socy has an organ in the church. The Socy has rather declined for a few years thro' sectarian influence, & old age & feeble health of Mr Goodrich. The pres. wish now if possible to recruit & invigorate Socy. The universalists fr. this & neighboring towns are about to put up a church of this stamp in this village, wh. will be 2<sup>d</sup> church of that kind in this State. They need some man fr. N. H. to stand in this place, & withstand those libertines. They want a stronger man, than I fear they will get. Several things are very pleasant about this Socy. It is very



compact. Every school house is within 2 miles of a church.  
It is near home &c. Near Hartford, Middletown, &c. &c.  
places of public meetings, &c. But still I do not wish  
to settle any where yet awhile; & it is quite doubtful  
whether I tarry here, even if the peo. wish it ever so much.  
I expect to leave this place for Brooklyn & seat of Windsor  
county, next week. The orthodox Socy have recently  
dismissed Mr Edson. A revival has lately commenced  
there. They have sent for me to come on & tarry  
till the first of April. I have not engaged however  
to remain with them only till the first of <sup>quite</sup> May.  
Governor yet preaches in Pomfret. There has been  
an accession to the ch. since he has been there. There  
are still new cases of conviction & conversion. There  
are revivals in some neighboring towns. There has been  
of late & still is a gradual revival in Tyler's Socy in  
Middletown. ~~Tel. to the~~ Brooklyn. I arrived in this  
town yesterday. The church & Socy in Berlin have given  
me a unanimous & very pressing call to settle with them. Several  
men in early life who have hitherto refused to join the Socy, came  
forward & joined on Monday last, & several more will probably  
join soon. The Socy thought it not best to vote formally a large  
salary, lest some shd. in consequence, refuse to join the Society.



They therefore voted a salary of 500 dollars, as a Soc<sup>y</sup>. This individuals made pledges of a 100 more. Its in + dispensations of divine Providence, they have become so much united, & as they say + universalists w<sup>d</sup> rejoice to have me negative their call; they pretend that I must come back. May + Lord direct me in + decision of + solemn question before me! The Soc<sup>y</sup> have contended <sup>for</sup> ~~Mr~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Edison~~ away. Dark clouds of dissension lately hung over + church. But they <sup>have</sup> lately been dissipated in a striking manner. There is a general solemnity among + orthodox

I am very pleasantly situated in this Williams family. He seems to be an excellent surgeon & has a little shop & drug store with her. Now what I have been hearing of & see & hear of an intelligent & helpful for a cheap and useful time here.

George A. Williston  
Brooklyn Jan 25

1831



Single  
Brooklyn  
Feb 3  
Rev. A. A. Phelps  
Worcester  
Mass.

How bright is + prospect of a general revival I know not, for I have not yet addressed + people, nor been among them much. The Unitarian Soc<sup>y</sup> has not increased here this 4 years. Half + wealth, more than half + intelligence & influence, all + liberally educated men except Mr May + Unitarian Minister are members of + orthodox Soc<sup>y</sup>. All + lawyers, & 2 physicians out of 3 belong to + orthodox Soc<sup>y</sup>, & are members of + church. The town is flourishing. It is now court time. Judge Dagget is here. I board with + widow of + late Mr Williams of Newburyport, + father of Walter your College Chaplain. Write me immediately how many & understand how some preachers in Wm. He would not settle. Yours Geo. A. Williston